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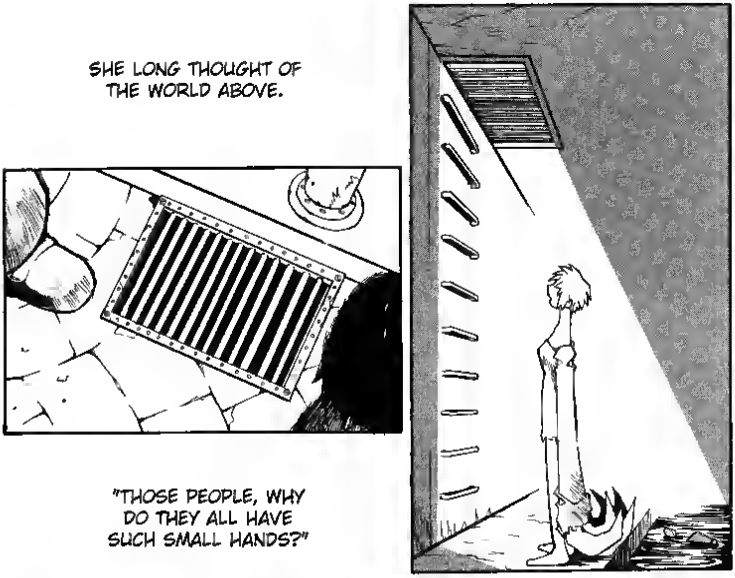
IN A BIG CANAL UNDER A BIG FACTORY IN A BIG TOWN
SHE HAD LARGE CLAWS.
SHE LIVED.

SHE WAS LONELY IN THE VAST SEWERS.

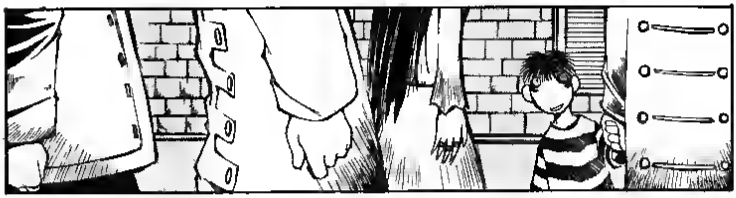
WITH ONLY RATS TO BE HER FOOD.

WITH ONLY RATS TO CALL HER FRIENDS.

SHE LONG THOUGHT OF THE WORLD ABOVE.



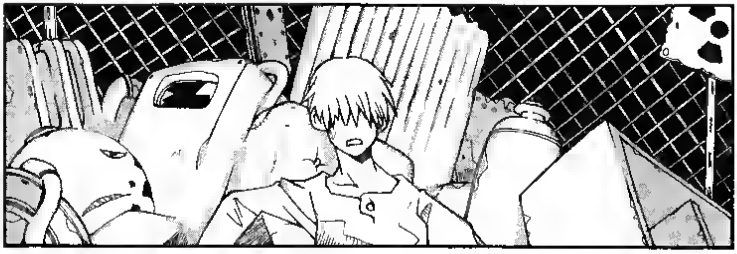
"THOSE PEOPLE, WHY DO THEY ALL HAVE SUCH SMALL HANDS?"



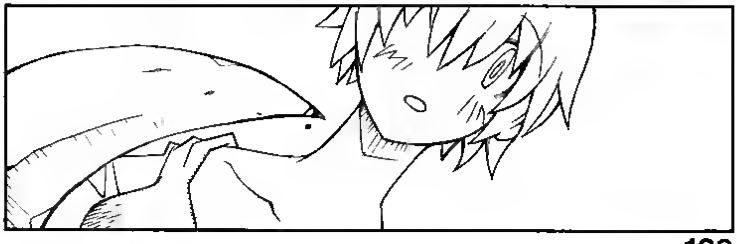
"THOSE TINY HANDS CAN'T CATCH STUPID RATS"

"THAT'S WHY THEY'VE ALL RUN AWAY TO ABOVE"

"IF THAT'S THE CASE"

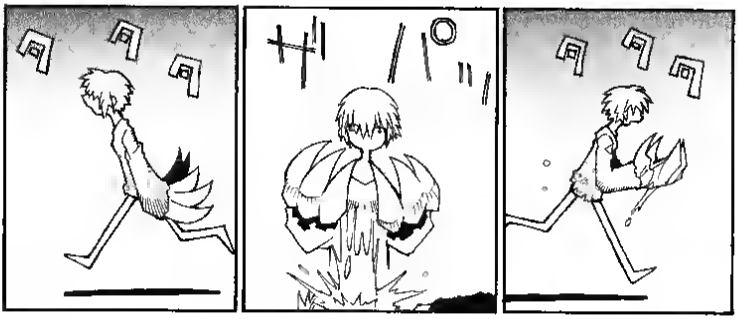


SHE FOUND AN INJURED BOY IN THE SEWERS.



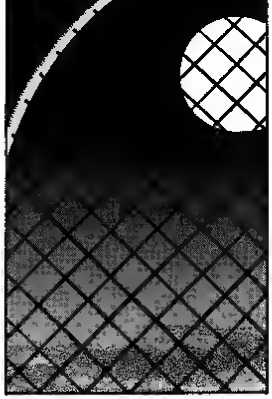
SHE CARRIED THE BOY'S BODY CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO DAMAGE IT.
THE POOR BOY'S FACE HAD BEEN SEVERELY BEATEN AND BOTH HIS EYES WERE RED AND SWOLLEN SHUT.
HIS FEVER WOULDN'T GO DOWN AND HE SHOWED NO SIGN OF REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.

SHE GAVE HER ALL IN PREPARING FOR ANYTHING FOR THE BOY.

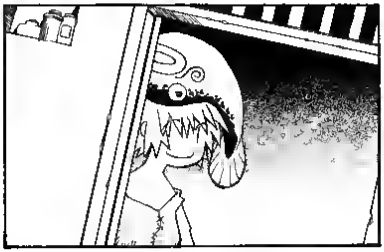


EVERYDAY. EVERYDAY.

ON THAT DAY
SHE HAD A VERY
PLEASED FACE BECAUSE
SHE HAD CAUGHT AN
EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE
CANAL CATFISH.



SHE THOUGHT THAT
SHE WOULD GIVE
THE BOY THE MOST
DELICIOUS PART,
THE EYEBALL.



"THIS IS BAD. I NEED TO COOL HIM DOWN QUICKLY."

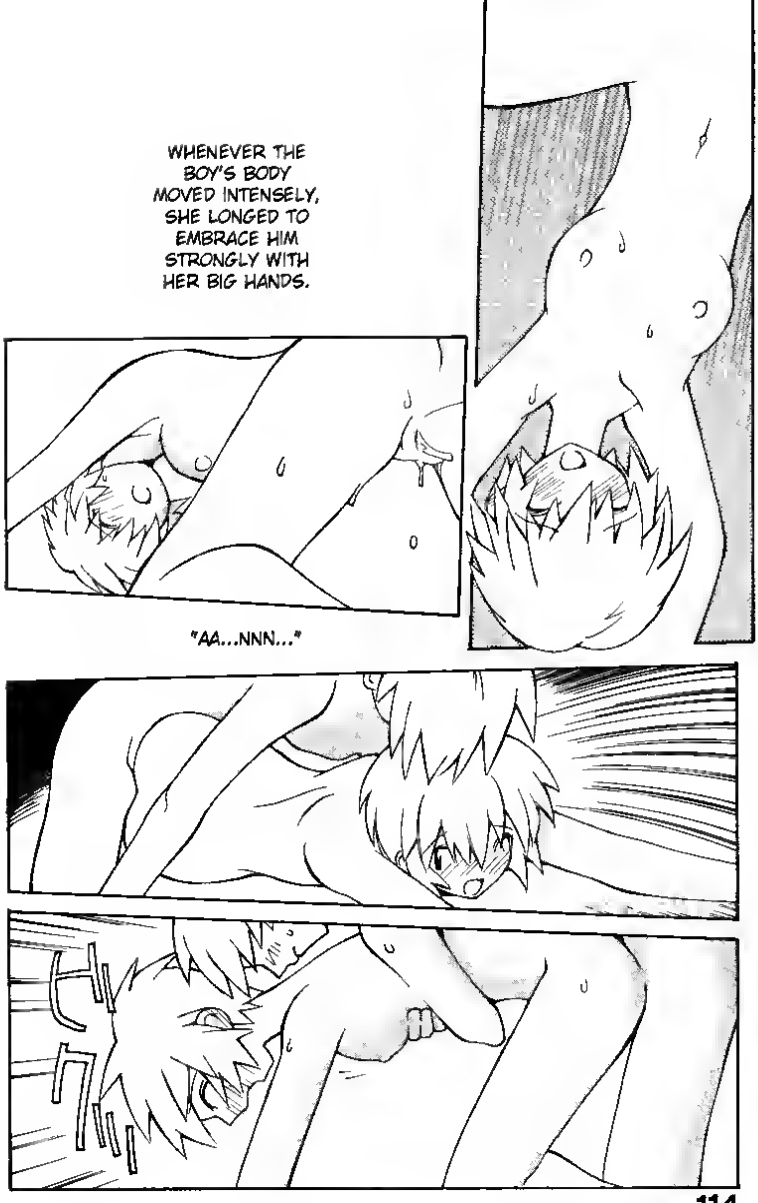
WHILE TAKING EXTRAORDINARY CARE SO THAT HER SHARP HANDS WOULD NOT SCRATCH HIM SHE LAID HER BODY ON HIM.

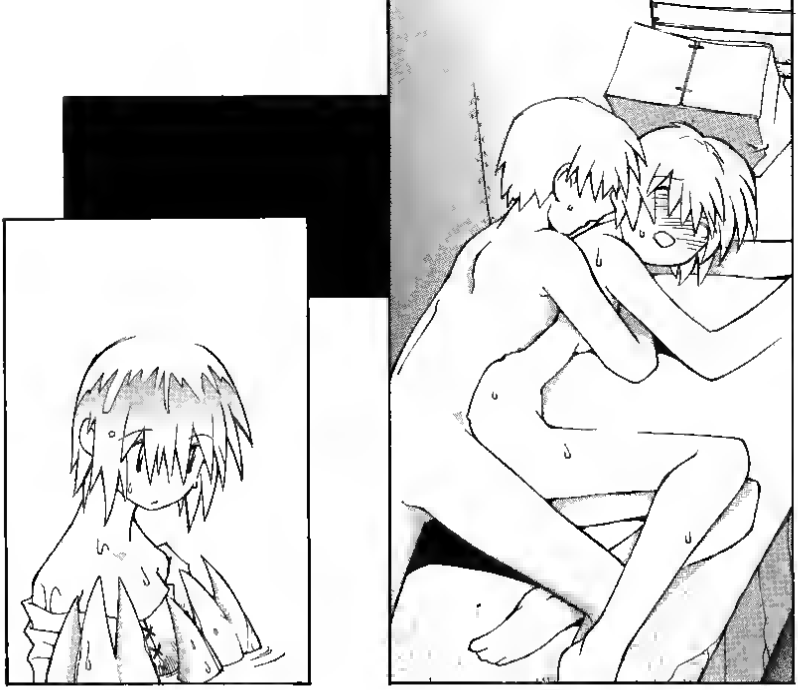
THOUGH HE COULD NOT SEE
THE BOY THOUGHT HE COULD FEEL A PRESENCE THERE.
ギュウ
"...THAT HAS SUCH A COLD BODY."
"WHAT IS IT..."

"AH."
SHE WAS PUZZLED BY THE BOY'S ACTIONS.
ん?

HER BODY SHOOK SLIGHTLY EVERY TIME THE BOY'S SMALL HANDS TOUCHED HER.

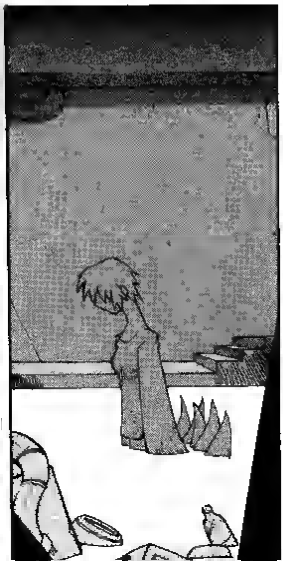
NEVERTHELESS, WITH ALL HER MIGHT SHE WOULDN'T TOUCH THE BOY'S BODY.
"AA...AAH."


WHENEVER THE BOY'S BODY MOVED INTENSELY, SHE LONGED TO EMBRACE HIM STRONGLY WITH HER BIG HANDS.
"AA...NNN..."



SILENTLY, SHE
THOUGHT ABOUT
MANY THINGS.

UNTIL NOW SHE HAD NEVER FELT
THIS WAY, THE FEELING WAS AS IF
WITHIN HER HEAD WAS SPINNING
ROUND AND THE INSIDES HER EARS
WERE SHIVERING.



SHE BECAME A LITTLE OVERJOYED AND RAN UP TO THE BOY.

"NO.... MONSTER..."

"HELP! IT'S A SEWER MONSTER!!"

IF ONLY THEY COULD STAY TOGETHER FOR LITTLE LONGER

SHE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

AND YET
SHE HAD ONLY MEANT TO USE JUST A LITTLE BIT OF STRENGTH TO STOP THE BOY
NOW THE BOY'S BODY LAY IN PIECES.
HELPLESS, SHE INSTINCTIVELY HELD HERSELF WITH ALL HER STRENGTH.
HER BODY SHUDDERED UNCONTROLLABLY.
AND SO SHE TOO, FELL APART.

TOGETOGE - FIN

TRANSLATION - CHOJIKI